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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Troops in Szolnok

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1. The new Tisza Barracks is the most modern in Szolnok and can take 1,100 men. It is now occupied by a Hungarian high command, but informants disagree as to whether it is a division or a brigade command. Also at the barracks is an artillery regiment, with one of its sections, 720 to 740 men in all. There are three batteries, two of which have each four 76.2 mm guns and a heavy machine gun platoon with four Maxim guns; the 3rd Battery has four 122 mm howitzers and a heavy machine gun platoon with four Maxims. The auto park consists of 55 trucks of various types, 16 to 18 prime movers, five passenger cars, three tank trucks and some motorcycles. During the summer 1953, the regiment went to the Szeged neighborhood for exercises.
2. The armored barracks was formerly the artillery barracks, and is near the Szolnok-Bersenyssög road, between it and the Szolnok-Szajol-Törökszentmiklós railroad, at the northeast edge of the town. The barracks was built before World War II, and can take 1,200 men. It now holds an armored regiment with regimental troops and two battalions. The 1st Battalion has 32 T-34/85 tanks; the 2nd Battalion has 20 Stalin tanks. There are 900 to 1,000 men; the regiment is not at full strength. In addition to the tanks the regiment has 9 or 10 passenger cars and 43 to 45 trucks. During the summer 1953 the regiment went out for exercises with other motorized units from Cegléd.
3. The AAA barracks is near the one mentioned above. It now holds a motorized AAA section armed with twelve 85 mm AA guns. The strength is 620 to 630 men. They wear red shoulder boards and belong to the classes 1929 to 1931. At the same barracks is an AAA training battery armed with four Soviet 122 mm guns. The barracks auto park consists of 12 prime movers, 43 to 45 trucks, four passenger cars, four repair shop cars, and two radio cars. Firing positions have been built along the rivers Theiss and Zagyva and the units use them in training.

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4. The old infantry barracks is on a road branching off the Budapest-Szolnok highway. It is occupied by a motorized rifle battalion, of 540 to 550 men, wearing blue shoulder boards. The unit is fully motorized, with 65 to 68 trucks of various types and three passenger cars.
5. The pioneer barracks is between the Theiss and the Besenyszög-Szolnok road and the Alcsi-Pusztá station. It consists of one-story buildings and can take a battalion of 600 to 700 men. It is now occupied by an engineer battalion of 570 to 580 men belonging to the classes 1929 to 1932. They wear dark green shoulder boards with an anchor for insignia. The unit is equipped with heavy and medium pontoons and heavy bridging material. The exercise area is between Tiszavárkony and Szolnok. During the fall 1953, bridges were erected there and often remained in place for weeks. The autopark consists of 34 trucks, 21 prime movers, two tank trucks, three workshop cars and seven passenger cars. At the exercise area there is an engineer storage depot and about one km south of it a fuel depot.
6. On the west bank of the Theiss, between the Szolnok-Tiszavárkony road, the Samarjay farm and the village of Tószeg is an exercise area for armor, which used to be used by the Soviets. There is a target range with both fixed and moving targets.
7. On the Szolnok-Ujváros-Budapest railroad, 32 km northeast of Szolnok is another exercise area for armor. It is between the villages of Tápiógyörnye and Tápiószéle.

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